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FATAL
EXTRA
ATTRACTIONS
THE DEATH
OF A
DREAM
IN THIS... THE
FINAL BATTLE!

Chris Claremont
Matthew Ryan

FATAL ATTRACTIONS

THE HOUSE IS WHITE; THE OFFICE IS OVAL, HIS MAN SITTING BEHIND THE DESK IS AFRAID.

HE NEVER EXPECTED TO BE THE PRESIDENT WHO WOULD BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD.

BUT NOW, HE KNOWS THAT VERY WELL MAY BE THE EPITAPH WRITTEN FOR HIM IN THE HISTORY BOOKS... IF ANYONE HAD A CHANCE OF SURVIVING WHAT IS TO COME...

THE SQUARE IS RED; THE COUNTRY IS NEW; THE MAN RUBBING THE SLEEP OUT OF HIS EYES IS AFRAID.

HE NEVER EXPECTED TO PRESIDE OVER ONE DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THE WAY HIS COUNTRY EXISTED...

THE CIGAR IS CUBAN; THE ARMAMENT IS AMERICAN; AND THOUGH THE ATTITUDE IS PURE, HARD-EDGED STEEL...

...NICHOLAS FURY, DIRECTOR OF SHIELD, A MAN WHO HAS FOUGHT IN THREE WARS ACROSS FOUR DECADES...

THIS AIN'T GONNA WORK, IS IT, FORT?

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...

...IS VERY MUCH AFRAID THAT HE IS PREPARING HIMSELF FOR THE FINAL BATTLE OF HIS LIFE...

...MUCH LESS TWO...

< WHEN WILL THE ACTION BE INITIATED? >

BORIS, I'M SORRY, I KNOW IT'S LATE...

--BUT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL JUST UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO INITIATE THE ALPHA AND BETA PARAMETERS OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS.

AS TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN -- BORIS



NEAR-EARTH SPACE,
IN THE SHADOW OF
THE TERMINATOR,
RACING FROM DAY
TO NIGHT...

...A COMMUNICA-
TIONS RELAY TRIPS
FROM ONE METICU-
LOUSLY ALIGNED
SATELLITE TO
ANOTHER.

SYSTEMS WHICH
HAD REMAINED
SILENT FOR SEV-
ERAL YEARS FIRE
TO LIFE--

--LINKING ONE
FLOATING
SENTRY TO THE
NEXT--

--UNTIL THE ENTIRE
PLANET IS COVERED
IN A PROTECTIVE
NEB OF ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC FIRE.



THE DEFENSIVE ACTIONS TAKEN
BY THE CITIZENS OF THE PLANET
BELOW DO NOT GO UNNOTICED
BY ONE WHO HAS PLACED HIMSELF
SO FAR ABOVE THEM--

-- BOTH BY ACCIDENT
OF BIRTH, AND BY
DINT OF CAREFULLY
CRAFTED DESIGN...

I
WANTED
THEM NOT TO
DO THIS!

WHY DO
THEY SEEK
TO PROVOKE
ME?

WHAT WILL
IT TAKE FOR THEM
TO LEAVE US ALONE
SO WE MAY FORGE
OUR OWN UTOPIA,
REMOVED FROM THEIR
PETTY, PANISTIC
LIVES?

... THE MASTER
OF MAGNETISM,
HAS TAKEN
NOTICE...

... AND
MAGNETO
IS ANGRY!

MY ACOLYTES,
I DID NOT GRANT
YOU SAFE HAVEN
HERE IN
AVALON--

-- IN ORDER TO SEE
YOU ALL SLAUGHTERED
BY THE HUMANS
BELOW.

THIS
ATTACK
CANNOT BE
IGNORED.

FOR TOO LONG,
I HAVE PLAYED A
FRUITLESS TÊTE-À-TÊTE
WITH THOSE HUMANS
IN POSITIONS OF
POWER.

I HAD ALWAYS
HOPED, THAT AS
ADMINISTRATIONS
CAME AND WENT--

--AS
FIGUREHEADS
CHANGED, ONE DAY,
EVENTUALLY--

--THOSE WHO
BELIEVED IN THE
RIGHTS OF MUTANTS
TO EXIST FREE FROM
PERSECUTION, WOULD
ATTAIN POWER.

IT WAS,
I KNOW, A
FOOLISH
HOPE--

...BORN OUT
OF MY DESIRE TO
NEVER BECOME
THAT WHICH I
DESPISED IN
MY YOUNGER
DAYS...

... A DESPOT,
A TYRANT--A
HITLER.

YET, THERE
MUST COME A
TIME WHEN
EVEN DEAF
EARS MUST
BE MADE TO
LISTEN, LORD
MAGNUS.

YOU ARE
CORRECT,
EXOPUS.

INDEED, THAT
TIME HAS COME AND
GONE LONG BEFORE
WE EVEN SOUGHT
REFUGE HERE AMONG
THE HEAVENS!



"IT IS TIME, THEN,
FOR MY ACTIONS
TO SPEAK FAR MORE
LOUDLY THAN MY
WORDS EVER HAVE..."

HE LEAVES THEIR HAVEN,
AVALON, BUILT FROM
THE TECHNOLOGIES OF
WORLD'S LONG GONE AND
THOSE STILL-TO-COME--

-- AND SOARS
ACROSS THE
PLANET'S
ELECTROMAGNETIC
FIELD--

-- DISTURBED BY THE
SEMI DISRUPTION
CAUSED BY THE ENERGY
WAVELENGTH MESH
SPANNING THE
WORLD BELOW.

IMMEDIATELY, HE
UNDERSTANDS
WHAT THE HUMANS
HAVE DONE.

HE IS SAFE HERE,
FAR ABOVE THE
PLANET, BUT TO GO
HOME AGAIN
COULD VERY WELL
MEAN DEATH.

IN MANY WAYS, HE
ADMIRE'S AND
APPRECIATES THE
INVENTIVENESS
OF THE HUMANS'
GAMBIT.

BUT ULTIMATELY, IT
IS AN AFFRONT HE
CANNOT ABIDE FOR
IT WILL DISRUPT HIS
ABILITY TO RECRUIT
NEW CONVERTS TO
HIS FLOCK.



THE MESH HAS
SKEWED THE
PLANET'S E-M
FIELD JUST
ENOUGH TO DIS-
RUPT MAGNETO'S
MUTANT ABILI-
TIES WITHIN THE
PARAMETERS
OF EARTH'S
ATMOSPHERE.



SO MAGNETO
CONCENTRATES,
MUTTERING A
SILENT PRAYER
TO A GOD HE NO
LONGER
BELIEVES IN--

-- AND CUTS A SWATH
ACROSS EARTH'S ELEC-
TROMAGNETIC FIELD
LIKE A BATTLE-FORGED
BLADE THROUGH SOFT
FLESH.

MANHATTAN, NEW YORK, TEN SECONDS AFTER MAGNETO'S DETONATION...

FASHAASHASHH

WHAT THE--?

REED-- IS THAT YOU MESSIN' AROUND WITH ANOTHER FRANKSTAT OR SOMETHIN'--?

ALWAYS WHEN I'M TAKIN' A BUBBLE BATH, TOO!

HEY-- POWER'S NOT KICKIN' BACK IN! IS THIS FER REAL, STRETCHO?

TOO REAL, BEN-- AND APPALLINGLY FRIGHTENING IN ITS IMPLICATIONS. WE ARE COMPLETELY BLACKED-OUT!

A PULSE WAVE HIT US-- UNLIKE ANY I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE, IT SWEEPED RIGHT OVER US--

"--AND IT SHOWS NO SIGNS OF ABATING..."

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, TWO MINUTES AFTER DETONATION...

*THESE EVENTS TAKE PLACE BEFORE FF# 374-100B.

TOKYO, JAPAN.
FIVE MINUTES
AFTER
DETONATION...

FASHASH

--BUT HAS NO WAY
TO PROTECT
HIMSELF FROM IT--

THE KREMLIN,
MOSCOW. SIX
MINUTES AFTER
DETONATION...

FSHAASHSHSH

BRADDOCK
MANOR,
ENGLAND. EIGHT
MINUTES
AFTER
DETONATION...

unbelievable--!

BRIAN--
WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE POWER?

I'M NOT
CERTAIN,
KURT.

SHIRO YOSHIDA,
THE MUTANT
NAMED
SUNFIRE, SEES
THE COMING
ONSLAUGHT--

BUT
THE MANOR'S
SECONDARY
GENERATORS
SHOULD FIRE UP
MOMENTARILY.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, ELEVEN MINUTES AFTER DETONATION...

...THE WAVE HAS COME FULL CIRCLE, WASHING BACK OVER THE NATION'S CAPITAL WITH AN ALMOST MOCKINGLY GENTLE EASE.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, ELEVEN MINUTES AFTER DETONATION...

...THE WAVE HAS COME FULL CIRCLE, WASHING BACK OVER THE NATION'S CAPITAL WITH AN ALMOST MOCKINGLY GENTLE EASE.

THE ENTIRE PLANET
HAS BEEN CAST IN
ITS FALL...

...AND WHERE THERE
ARE NO SCREAMS OF
PANIC AND FEAR, A
CHILLING BLANKET OF
SILENCE COVERS
THE WORLD.

THE ENTIRE PLANET HAS BEEN CAST IN ITS FALL...

...AND WHERE THERE ARE NO SCREAMS OF PANIC AND FEAR, A CHILLING BLANKET OF SILENCE COVERS THE WORLD.

THIRTEEN MINUTES
AFTER DETONATION...

SEAN,
LET'S FIRE
IT UP--

--SEE IF THE
SHI'AR TECHNOLOGY
CAN COMPENSATE
FOR THE B-M PULSE WE
WERE HIT WITH--

THIRTEEN MINUTES
AFTER DETONATION...

SEAN,
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IT UP--

--SEE IF THE
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--SEE IF THE
SHI'AR TECHNOLOGY
CAN COMPENSATE
FOR THE B-M PULSE WE
WERE HIT WITH--

WUNDERBAR! WE'RE BACK ON-LINE!

BT, METHINKS, THE TEL-TALE HUSH ACROSS THE BOARD DECLARED, THROUGH INCREDIBLE STATIC CRACKLE--

--THAT WE MAY BE THE ONLY ONES ANYWHERE WHO HAVE REGAINED ELECTRONIC CAPABILITIES!

I'M AFRAID YE MAY BE RIGHT, BOYO.

THIS IS REALLY BAD.

SIGH.

LET'S BE ON WITH IT... WE'D BEST CHARGE.

WUNDERBAR! WE'RE BACK ON-LINE!

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B.T. METHINKS, THE TEL--TALK HUSH ACROSS THE BOARD DECLARED, THOUGH INDECENT STATIC CRACKLE--

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Join

FABIAN
NIEZA
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ANDY
KUBERT
PENCILER

MATT
RYAN
INKER

BILL
OAKLEY
LETTERER

JOE
ROGAS
COLORIST

BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR

TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

In proudly presenting the 25th issue of X-MEN!

DREAMS FADE



I HAVE
CALLED YOU ALL
HERE BECAUSE
THERE IS SOME-
THING I MUST
TELL YOU.

...AS HE FACES HIS
STUDENTS--NEW
AND OLD--FROM HIS
SCHOOL FOR GIFTED
YOUNGSTERS.

AMONG ONE OLD FRIEND, STAND
FOURTEEN MUTANTS, BORN
WITH FANTASTIC POWERS THAT
SET THEM APART FROM THE REST
OF HUMANITY.

IT BEGINS... WITH AN
ENDING--AND PER-
HAPS--THE BREAKING
OF A MAN'S HEART.
THIS MAN'S HEART.

THE HEART
OF CHARLES
XAVIER...

THEY ARE THE X-MEN, AND
ONCE AGAIN, THEY MUST
SAVE A WORLD WHICH FEARS
AND SHUNS THEM...

Dedicated to Stan & Jack, Roy & Neal, Len & Dave,
Chris & John--to all those who have come before
us and all those who will come in the NEXT 30 years!



OBVIOUSLY, MY X-MEN, WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

SCOTT WILL BRIEF YOU ALL.

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR.



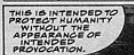
OKAY, GUYS, HERE GOES-- AT TEN-THIRTY-THREE THIS MORNING-- EASTERN STANDARD TIME--

--THE UNITED STATES SECURITY COUNCIL VOTED TO INITIATE THE PRELIMINARY LEVELS OF THE DEFENSE IN THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS.

THE ALPHA AND BETA OPTIONS OF THE PROTOCOLS INVOLVE THE ACTIVATING OF A DEFENSIVE SHIELD WHICH SPREADS ACROSS THE PLANET--



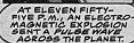
--AND PREVENTS MAGNETO FROM USING HIS POWERS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.



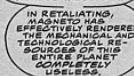
THIS IS INTENDED TO PROTECT HUMANITY WITHOUT THE APPEARANCE OF INTENDED PROVOCATION.



WORKED LIKE A CHARM, CYCLOPS.



AT ELEVEN FIFTY-FIVE P.M., AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC EXPLOSION SENT A PULSE WAVE ACROSS THE PLANET.



IN RETALIATING, MAGNETO HAS EFFECTIVELY RENDERED THE MECHANICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THIS ENTIRE PLANET COMPLETELY USELESS.



WE BELIEVE THIS IS A TEMPORARY CONDITION, BUT EVEN SO, OUR SCATTERED INFORMATION LEADS US TO EXPECT--

--THAT THE PULSE WAVE WAS TERRIFYINGLY DEVASTATING IN ITS FEROCITY.

SCOTT--

HOW-- HOW BAD WAS IT?

WE CAN'T
REALLY KNOW
FOR CERTAIN,
ROGUE.

WE'RE ONLY ON-LINE
BECAUSE WE HAVE THE
ADVANTAGE OF THE ALIEN
SHI'AR TECHNOLOGY
INCORPORATED INTO OUR
SYSTEMS --

WE FEAR MANY HUNDREDS...
PERHAPS THOUSANDS, HAVE
DIED.

LORD,

THIS IS IN-
SANE! WHY DIDN'T
HE WARN US OR
SOMETHIN'?

-- WHICH
ALLOWS US TO
OPERATE
INDEPENDENTLY OF
THE PLANET'S E-M
FIELD WAVE-
LENGTH.

FROM THE
GARBLED STATIC
WE HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO PIECE
TOGETHER, WE
KNOW IT'S
BAD.

REALLY
BAD.

PLANE
CRASHES...
MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT
FAILURE.

MAGNUS WOULD
CLAIM HIS ENTIRE
LIFE HAS BEEN A
WARNING. THIS WAS A
VICIOUS ATTACK--
MEANT TO WOUND--
TO DEVASTATE.

BUT IF
MAGNETO WAS
ABLE TO DO THIS,
DON'T YOU THINK
HE COULDA JUST
AS EASILY WIPE
US ALL OUT?

INDEED, I
KNOW HOW
DIFFICULT THIS
IS FOR YOU... NOW
YOU FEEL ABOUT
MAGNUS...

...BUT THE FACT THAT
HE DID NOT KILL US
ALL SHOULD BE VIEWED
AS A MISTAKE ON HIS
PART...

...AND WE
HAVE TO MAKE
CERTAIN IT IS THE
LAST MISTAKE HE
HAS THE OPPOR-
TUNITY TO
MAKE.

WHAT'RE
YOU SAYIN',
CHUCK?

YOU KNOW
EXACTLY WHAT
I AM SAYING,
LOGAN...

...WE DO NOT
HAVE THE LUXURY
OF TIME, NOR THE
OCCASION FOR
NOBILITY...

...AT THIS POINT,
WE ARE NOT FIGHTING
FOR THE PHILOSOPHY
OF A CAUSE, A HOPE,
OR A DREAM--

-- WE ARE
FIGHTING FOR
OUR VERY
SURVIVAL--

-- AND IF WE
DO NOT FIGHT
TO WIN, THIS
PLANET WILL BE
IRREVOCABLY
LOST TO
US!

XAVIER'S WORDS
HANG HEAVILY
AS THE X-MEN
DISPERSE AND
PREPARE FOR
THEIR MISSION.

BUT THREE OF
HIS ORIGINAL
STUDENTS--

--WHO WERE ALL
SO YOUNG AND
INNOCENT WHEN
THEY FIRST CAME
TO LIVE HERE--

--HAVE COME TO
A CONSENSUS
ABOUT THE
RETRIBUTORY
STRIKE THEIR
TEACHER HAS
PLANNED...

GUYS,
I DON'T
LIKE
THIS
ONE
BIT...

IS IT
BECAUSE,
FEARLESS
LEADER, YOU
CONSIDER IT
A PLAN WHICH
IS STRATE-
GICALLY
UNBOUND--

--OR
BECAUSE
YOU
WEREN'T
INCLUDED
IN IT?

NEITHER,
HANK--OR
MAYBE
BOTH.

I JUST
DON'T LIKE
THE SOUND
OF WHAT THE
PROFESSOR
HAS PLANNED.

HE'S UNDER A
LOT OF STRAIN,
SCOTT, AND I'M
GOING WITH
THEM. I WON'T
ALLOW ANYTHING
TO HAPPEN--

--OR BE
A PARTY TO
SOMETHING--
WHICH GOES
AGAINST EVERY-
THING WE
BELIEVE.

I KNOW,
JEAN, BUT
THOSE
BELIEFS
SEEM SO...
I DON'T
KNOW...
OUTDATED
LATELY.

DO THEY
SCOTT? A
LITTLE
Corny,
MAYBE...

"ALWAYS STRIVE TO
HEAL THROUGH THE
OPEN HAND, RATHER
THAN HAMMER HOME
SOLUTIONS THROUGH
THE CLOSED
FIST."

"SHOW THE WORLD
THAT ONLY THROUGH
RESPECT FOR OUR GEN-
ETIC DIVERSITY CAN WE
HOPE TO COME
TOGETHER."

"BE WILLING
TO FIGHT FOR THE
BELIEFS AGAINST THOSE,
BOTH HUMAN AND MUTANT,
WHO WOULD TRY
TO CRUSH THE
DREAM."

MAYBE
THEY DON'T
SOUND SO
OUTDATED
AFTER ALL...

DID IT EVER
OCCUR TO ANY
OF YOU, IN ALL
THE YEARS
WE'VE BEEN
TOGETHER--



--THAT
PERHAPS
I WAS
WRONG?

CHARLES--?
YOU'RE--
WALKING?!

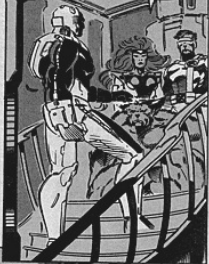
ONLY
I ASSURE YOU,
THROUGH
TREMENDOUS
EXERTION.

THE SH'AR
EXOSKELETON
OPERATES ON PSIONIC
ENERGY, SO EVERY
STEP I TAKE IS... A
GIANT LEAP FOR
MUTANTKIND.

CUTE, BUT, PROFESSOR,
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU
THINK YOU ARE DOING?

I AM
GOING TO
LEAD THE STRIKE-
FORCE AGAINST
MAGNUS,
HANK.

CHARLES--
I DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU'VE
BEEN HIDING
THAT EXO-
SKELETON...



... BUT
EVEN WITH
IT, WELL...
THAT IS...

WHAT JEAN
IS TRYING TO SAY,
SIR, IS THAT EVEN
WITH THE ABILITY
TO WALK--

--YOU'VE NEVER
REALLY BEEN MUCH
OF A BATTLEFIELD
OPERATIVE.

I WOULD TAKE GREAT INSULT AT THAT, SCOTT, IF I DIDN'T AGREE WITH YOU.

WHICH IS WHY I STRUCTURED THE ASSAULT TEAM AS A COMBINATION OF SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES.

WOLFE 1

WOLFE



COMBINING THE BEST ELEMENTS OF STEALTH, SUBTERFUGE AND GUILT TO INFILTRATE MAGNETO'S BASE--

JEAN 2

JEAN



--WITH TELEPATHIC PRONESS TO ATTACK HIM AT HIS WEAKEST POINT-- HIS TORTURED SOUL--

QUICK 3

QUICK



--AS WELL AS SPEED, STRENGTH AND THE STRONG DESIRE TO SETTLE UNRESOLVED EMOTIONAL CONFLICTS.

AND SINCE YOU'LL BE INSIDE A SPACE STATION--

--WE HIGH-OCTANE ENERGY WELDERS DON'T COME IN TOO HANDY--

--BUT WHAT ABOUT SOME OF THE OTHERS?

WHY NOT INCLUDE MORE OF YOUR ORIGINAL STUDENTS WHO'VE FOUGHT THIS BATTLE WITH MAGNETO ALMOST AS LONG AS YOU?

BECAUSE YOU DON'T EXPECT TO COME BACK, DO YOU, CHARLES?

AND YOU NEED US DOWN HERE-- TO STAY--

...TO CARRY ON...?



IF I HAD A CHOICE,
SCOTT, JEAN WOULD
STAY ALSO...

... BUT WITH ALL OF
THE MENTAL ENERGY
I AM EXPENDING TO
OPERATE THIS
EXO SKELETON--



--I'LL NEED
HER TELEPATHIC
ABILITIES TO
ASSIST ME AS
WE EXECUTE
MY PLAN.

AND WHAT
EXACTLY IS
YOUR PLAN,
SIR?

YES, IT
IS THE YOU
DESERVE TO
KNOW.

COMPUTER:
BOOT UP
MAGNETO
MANEUVER
NUMBER
FOURTEEN-B,
AMENDED AUGUST,
NINETTY-TWO.



OH, MY
STARS AND
GARTERS!

HE DOES
MEAN TO PUT AN
END TO THIS CYCLE
OF VIOLENCE ONCE
AND FOR ALL--

HE KEEPS
TELLING
HIMSELF
THAT, IN
ESSENCE,
IT'S JUST
ANOTHER
JOB.

REMY LEBEAU IS
A THIEF AT HEART,
AND IF RATIONALIZED
PROPERLY, THIS IS
NOTHING MORE THAN
A NOBLE PINCH.

IT JUST SEEMS
THAT THE LONGER
HE STAYS WITH
THESE PEOPLE, THE
MORE HE BE-
LIEVES IN THEIR
CAUSE--

--AND THE
HARDER
IT GETS TO
SIMPLY
RATIONALIZE
THE JOB.

THE TRUTH OF THE
MATTER IS THAT,
AS SAMBUT WELL
KNOWS, HE IS
FIGHTING FOR THE
HOPE OF AN
ENTIRE PLANET--



--AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY
THAN EVER TO
HIM... HE IS ALSO
FIGHTING FOR
THE HEART OF
THE WOMAN HE
LOVES...

READY,
GARET?

AH GUESS.

I KNOW
MAGNETO
SAVED YOUR
LIFE, ROGUE...
EVEN THOUGH I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT ELSE WENT
ON THEN YOU
TWO--

--WE
STILL GOTTA
DO THIS.
Y'KNOW WE
DO.

AH I'M JUST
AFRAID, REMY,
WHEN PUSH
COMES TA
SHOVE--

--WHOSE
SIDE AM
AH GONNA
BE ON?

THE SIDE
Y' ALWAYS
TRY T' BE
ON-- THE
RIGHT
SIDE...





AND I, FOR ONE,
AM NOT ABOUT
TO LET IT.

ALL RIGHT,
THEN, ENOUGH
WITH THE
SPEECHES. I'M
AFRAID I'VE
EMBARRASSED
MYSELF.

MY X-MEN,
IT IS TIME.

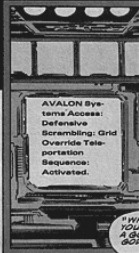
COMPUTER,
ACTIVATE
SHI'AR
SECONDARY
COMMAND
PROGRAMMING
LINK--

--OPTION:
NERAMANI-
OMEGA--

...COMMENCE
AVALON SYSTEMS
OVERRIDE
SEQUENCE--

--ZED-ONE-
ZERO-ONE--

--ZERO-
ZERO-
ZERO--



AVALON Systems Access:
Defensive Scrambling: Grid
Override Teleportation
Sequence: Activated.



"COME,
WHY ARE YOU
HOLDING
BACK?"

"WHY
ARE YOU
PITTING IN
VAIN?"

"WHY IS IT THAT
YOU DO NOT HATE
A GOD, WHOM THE
GODS HATE MOST
OF ALL?"

"WHY IS IT THAT
YOU DO NOT BETRAY
HIM, SINCE IT WAS
YOUR HONOR HE BE-
TRAYED TO MENT?"



"OUR KINSHIP HAS
STRANGE POWER
THAT AND OUR LIFE
TOGETHER."

SHAKESPEARE?



AESCHYLUS,
"FROM METHEUS
UNBOUND."

GREEK
TRAGEDIES,
HANK?

UNFORTUNATELY,
IT WOULD SEEM
APROPPOS, SLIM...

THE GATES OF
"HEAVEN"
OPEN...

...UNABLE TO PREVENT
THE SERPENTS FROM
ENTERING ONTO ITS
HALLOWED HALLS.

WHICH RINGS RATHER
IRONIC, CONSIDERING
THAT THIS SUPPOSED
PARADISE...

...AND THOSE NOW
RISING FROM THE
HELL THAT EARTH
HAS BECOME...

...COME AS DARK
ANGELS, SEEKING
TO CLEANSE
TO REDEEM.

...IS PRESIDED
OVER BY A MAN
HAUNTED BY THE
DEVILS OF HIS
OWN SCARRED
LIFE...

WE'RE
IN. COAST
IS CLEAR.

WE'D BEST
BE PRUDENT,
WOLVERINE.

THERE IS
NOT TELLING
WHAT KIND OF
SECURITY
SYSTEMS MAG-
NUS HAS IN
PLACE...

Internal Security Sensor
Override Activated!

Paragenetic Biosignatures of
Intruders No Longer Regis-
tering As Anomalous Pres-
ence, as per override
command:

CHEK

ON EARTH...?
NO, JAVITZ...

...NOT ON
EARTH.

SVISH

HOW GOES
THE SECURITY WATCH,
NIKOLAEVITCH?

HAS THERE
BEEN ANY
RETRIBUTORY
ACTIVITY ON
EARTH?

THEY
JUSTLY FEAR
OUR LORD'S
WRATH.

AND THE SHAME
OF IT IS, KATU, THAT
YOUR "LORD" HAS
MOST CERTAINLY
GIVEN THEM
REASON TO...



Y'KNOW,
IF WE
SURVIVE
THIS--

SO MUCH OF
THIS MATERIAL
IS SW/AS IN
ORIGIN--

--STOLEN
FROM US; NO
DOUBT, WHILE
I ENTRUSTED
NASH/AS AS
HEADMASTER
OF MY
SCHOOL!

MY FATHER
HAS ALWAYS DONE
A VERY GOOD JOB
OF USING THE HARD
WORK OF OTHERS
AGAINST THEM,
XAVIER.

BUT WHAT
HAS HE EVER
GIVEN ANYONE
WHICH HAS
SPRUNG FROM
HIS OWN
CREATIVITY?

OTHER
THAN THE COLD,
BITTER TASTE
OF HIS POWER
AND THE BLEAK
OUTLOOK OF HIS
VISION?

...IF IT'S THE
LAST THING
I DO!

THEN 'GAIN,
LOOK WHO'S
CALLIN' THE
KETTLE
BLACK...

WHO'S
THERE--?!

UHM...
AVON
CALLIN'...

...HOW
'BOUT
SOME
MAKE-UP
T'COVER
UP THAT
BLACK
EYE?

WHAT
BLACK
EYE?

FWRRRSHH



THE ONEY'GONNA HAVE FOR SURE IF YOU DON' GIVE UP RIGHT NOW, BOY.

EASY, GAMBIT. I KNOW THESE TWO. RUSTY GOULDS-- AND SKIDS.

THAT SO, JEAN? HOW DO WE KNOW THEY AIN'T BEEN FREED FROM ONE BRAINWASHIN'--

GANNONBALL TOLD US THEY'D AGREED TO STAY UP HERE AFTER THEY WERE FREED FROM STYFE'S MIND CONTROL.

--JUST TO HAVE MAGNETO PLAY GAMES WITH THEIR HEADS ALL OVER AGAIN?

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE WE MET ALL OF YOU--

WE'RE HERE BY CHOICE, WOLVERINE!

--WE FEEL WE CAN ACHIEVE THE DREAM YOU X-MEN KEEP PREACHING ABOUT!



RUSTY... NOW? BY SEPARATING YOURSELVES FROM THE VERY PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO LEARN TO ACCEPT US BEFORE PEACE WILL EVER OCCUR?



I'M SORRY, CHILDREN--

--BUT WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE TIME--

--TO DEBATE THE MATTER.



CHARLES --YOU FORCED THEM TO FALL ASLEEP?!

I SCANNED THEIR MINDS, JEAN. I COULD NOT DETERMINE IF THEY WERE ACTING OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL OR NOT.

DO YOU ACTED FOR THEM?

HOW UNLIKE WHAT MAGNETO OR STYFE DID TO THEM...



PIETRO, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I WILL REMAIN IN MENTAL CONTACT WITH YOU AS YOU GO.



THAT IT DOES, QUICKIE,
BUT WE PLUGGED INTO
THE ONE WITH A DIRECT
ROUTE TO THE MAIN
CONTROL BOARD.



THIS
IS JUST LIKE
OUR SYSTEM
AT HOME, GANG.
PIECECAKE.

ALMOST
TOO EASY,
ISN'T IT?



YOU SUSPECT
AN AMBUSH,
JEANNIE?



JUST THE
OPPOSITE,
LOGAN.

I THINK
WE'VE
AMBUSHED
THEM...



...AND
THEY DON'T
EVEN KNOW
IT.

WHICH
MAKES THE
SIMPLICITY
OF THIS
MISSION
VERY RIGHT-
BING TO
ME.

WOULDN'T
YOU AGREE,
PROFESSOR?

ACTUALLY,
TEAM TWO
QUITE
SATISFIED
WITH OUR
PROGRESS.

COMPUTER: LOCATE
PARAGENETIC SIGNATURES
OF ALL OCCUPANTS ABOARD
THIS STATION.

THERE THEY
ARE. NOW COME
WE AIN'T
SHOWIN'?



WE ARE BLIND
TO AVALON'S
SENSORS, ROGUE.

WE'VE HAD
THE BENEFIT
OF SOME INSIDE
ASSISTANCE.

COMPUTER:
ENGAGE PROCEDURE
OVERRIDE TWO-ONE-
ALPHA-ZED-ZERO.



FWATHAKROON

THAT
ELIMINATES ANY
MISCELLANEOUS
OPPOSITION.

FOR ALL
WE KNOW,
MAGNETO
HAS--

I BLAME
NONE OF THEM
FOR THIS,
THOUGH.

HAS WHAT,
CHARLES?

OFFERED
THEM A
BETTER OPTION
THAN ANY YOU
COULD EVER HOPE
TO?

FOR THAT
IS ALL I HAVE
DONE!

I HAVE
OFFERED THEM
HOPE AND TRUTH,
OPPORTUNITY AND
ACCOMPLISH-
MENT!

AND I WILL
CONTINUE TO
DO SO FOR ALL
MUTANTS WHOM
I DEEM
WORTHY--

--AND I
WILL NOT LET
YOUR X-MEN
STOP ME
AGAIN!!





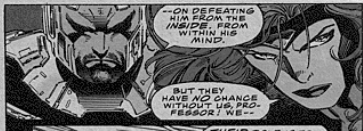


PAY
FOR WHAT?
PAY SIMPLY
FOR BEING
HUMAN?
SIMPLY FOR
BEING
ALIVE?

JEAN,
DON'T
WASTE
YOUR
ENERGIES
IN SO
FUTILE A
MANNER!

LET
THE OTHERS
OCCUPY
HIM--

--WE MUST
CONCENTRATE,
AS WE DIS-
CUSSED--



--ON DEFEATING
HIM FROM THE
INSIDE, FROM
WITHIN HIS
MIND.

BUT THEY
HAVE NO CHANCE
WITHOUT US, PRO-
FESSOR! WE--

THEIR ROLE IS TO
PROVIDE THE CHANCE
WE NEED, NOT THE
OPPOSITE.



PSI-LINK
WITH MY MIND,
JEAN, I CANNOT
BREAK THROUGH
MAGNETO'S PSYCHIC
DEFENSES ALONE.
I NEED YOU--

--TO STRIKE
AT HIS VERY CORE,
WITH THE EXPECTA-
TION THAT, AT THE
ROOT OF HIS GOALS
AND HIS
OBSESSIONS--

--MAGNETO'S
LIFE IS BUILT
ON A FRAGILE
SENSE OF
FAILURE--

--THAT DEEP
DOWN INSIDE,
MAGNETO MUST
KNOW THAT HIS WAY
IS UTTERLY, UTTERLY
WRONG!

BUT, PROFESSOR--
THIS IS WRONG! IT
GOES AGAINST
EVERYTHING YOU
EVER TAUGHT ME!



WONDERFUL,
JEAN--WHAT DO YOU
SUGGEST? WE
SCOLD HIM AN'
THAT'S THE END
O' THAT?

PSHRAAK!



REMY--!!

YOU
HURT
HIM!

AN' BECAUSE
YOU KNOW HE WAS
RIGHT, MAGNUS:
YOU JUST COULDN'T
FACE IT, COULD
YA?

SURE THERE'S
BEEN A MIGHTY
FINE LINE
BETWEEN THE ROAD
WE WALK AND
YOURS--

--BUT THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN US, SUGAR,
IS SIMPLE AS
RIGHT AN'
WRONG--

AN' GOIN' T'
WAR WITH
HUMANS--

--KILLIN'
'EM--

"AT THE GRAVESITE
OF DOUG
RAMSEY."

"THE YOUNG
NEW MUTANT
WHO DIED
WHILE MAGNUS
WAS HEAD-
MASTER OF
THE SCHOOL."

"IT HURT
HIM
DEEPLY,
CHARLES."

"HIS FEELINGS
--HIS GRIEF--
WERE GENU-
INE. IS THIS
RIGHT? TO
BRING THESE
MEMORIES
OUT? TO USE
THEM IN THIS
WAY...?"

"CHARLES,
WHERE--?"

--WHAT
--CHARLES?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING--?

NNNNRRM--!

WHATEVER
IT TAKES TO
DEFEAT YOU,
FATHER... AND
END THIS
MADNESS.

--BECAUSE
MAYBE THEY
FEEL THE
SAME WAY
ABOUT
YOU--

--DON'
MAKE IT
RIGHT!

AN'
THAT'S A
BELIEF WE'RE
WILLIN' TA
FIGHT-- AN'
DIE FOR!

PISTOL OUT OF
ALL OF THEM-- YOU
--HAVE THE AUDACITY
TO CONFRONT ME?

OH, MY SON,
MY SON... HOW
SHARPER THAN A
SERPENT'S TOOTH
IS YOUR
BETRAYAL!



TIME AND TIME AGAIN, UPON LEARNING YOU AND YOUR SISTER, WANDA, THE SCARLET WITCH, WERE MY CHILDREN-- THE CHILDREN OF MY BELOVED LOST MAGDA--

--YOU HAVE BEEN OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAND BY MY SIDE--AS WAS YOUR RIGHT--AS YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN MY JOY.

AND WHAT A WONDERFUL FATHER YOU WOULD BE, MAGNUS--

--FORCING YOUR CHILDREN TO SUBSERVIENT TO YOUR WHIMS... UNABLE TO EVEN THINK FOR THEMSELVES--

--AS YOU LOOKED ONTO THE IRON IN THEIR BLOODSTREAMS AND MOULDED THEIR VERY THOUGHTS!

WE MISSED OUT ON SO MUCH, BY LOSING YOUR PARENTAL GUIDANCE, DIDN'T WE?

NO, FATHER, YOU DO NOT!



"PROFESSOR... THIS MEMORY... IT DIDN'T HAPPEN THIS WAY..."

"WHEN MAGNUS'S WIFE, MAGDA, LEFT HIM, SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH WANDA AND PISTRO--"

"--AND IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HAD USED HIS POWERS IN FRONT OF HER."

"HE WASN'T MAGNETO THEN--SIMPLY ERIK MAGNUS LEENSHERR--"

"CHARLES, IF HIS MEMORIES ARE TWISTING-- FRACTURING--"

"--HIS CURRENT LIFE IMPOSING ITSELF ON HIS PAST, THEN THAT MEANS--"

"IT MEANS, JEAN, THAT WE ARE FORCING HIM TO QUESTION HIS OWN JUDGMENT, AT LAST!"

VERY DEVIOUS, CHARLES, BUT IN THE FACE OF YOUR SUBVERSION... YOUR BEFOULING OF MY MIND... I STAND --RESOLUTE.

LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT WHAT I HAVE BECOME BECAUSE OF YOU!

UNABLE TO LOVE FREELY, UNABLE TO TRUST WILLINGLY... AFRAID TO TRULY LIVE A LIFE WITH MY WIFE--MY DAUGHTER!

I AM TIRED OF RUNNING AWAY FROM MY PROBLEMS!

I AM TIRED OF RUNNING AWAY FROM YOU!



KRAKK!

PERHAPS I DID
WRONG BY YOU
AND YOUR SISTER,
PIETRO...

... BUT I
LOVED YOUR
MOTHER MORE
THAN LIFE
ITSELF.

AND I DO
NOT NEED YOU
TO BLAME ME
FOR THINGS I
SO FREELY
BLAME MYSELF!

BUT
CONSIDER THIS!
YOU HAVE DONE
EQUALLY WRONG
BY ME AS WELL,
MY SON!

BY
REJECTING
MY OFFER, YOU
REJECT MY
HOPES, MY
DREAMS--

--MY
CHANCE TO PASS
ALONG AN
INHERITANCE OF
MUTANT FREEDOM
ON TO YOU AND MY
DESCENDANTS!

--AND SO,
AS PAINFUL
AS IT IS FOR
ME, YOU MUST
BE SACRI-
FICED FOR
THE GOOD OF
OUR
PEOPLE--

--MY
SON MUST
BE SLAIN!

AND I
CANNOT
ALLOW YOU
TO DO THAT,
PIETRO!

THERE IS TOO MUCH
AT STAKE FOR OUR
PEOPLE. TO ALLOW
THE SON OF THE OVER-
LORD TO REJECT
HIS PATH!

I CANNOT
HAVE MY ONLY SON
LEAVE THE PARADISE
I HOPE TO CREATE
HERE--

--TO SEE
HIM TRY AND
COMPROMISE
MY EFFORTS
ON EARTH
BELOW US!

I
CANNOT
ALLOW YOU
TO BETRAY
ME, PIETRO--
TO BECOME
MY JUDAS--

SORRY,
MAGGIE--

--THAT JUST
AIN'T GONNA
HAPPEN!

WOLVERINE--?!
NO!

"JEAN, YOU
MUST SEIZE
ON THIS! IT
IS THE KEY!--

"--MAGNUS
FEELING THAT
HIS 'CHILDREN'
ALWAYS BETRAY
HIM, ALWAYS
FAIL HIM..."

"FROM PIETRO
AND WANDA
DOWN TO
FABIAN
CORTES,
LOGAN
BETRAYED THE
ACOLYTES
OF MAGNETO--

"--ONLY TO USE THEM
IN HIS GRANDER
SCHEME TO BETRAY
MAGNETO AND
KILL HIM!"

HESITATIN'
AGAIN, MASS?

BIG
MISTAKE!

'CAUSE
HERE'S WHERE
I SHOW YOU
HOW WELL I
LEARNED OUR
LITTLE
DANCE!

ahh

OH,
LOGAN,
LOGAN

YOU
HAVE--
DONE
THIS--?

THE GAME'S
OVER, BUB. ANY
MAN WHO'D TRY
AN' KILL HIS OWN
SON DESERVES
NO LESS.

DON'T LOOK
SO SURPRISED.
AFTER ALL,
AIN'T IT WHAT
YOU WOULD'A
DONE?

LOGAN
--NO!

JEAN--YOU'VE
SEVERED THE
MIND--PROBE!

I NEED YOU,
JEAN--MY CONTROL
OVER THIS ARMOR
IS TAXING ME
GREATLY!

NOW--
WHILE
HE IS
GRAVELY
INTURED--

--IS
OUR BEST
HOPE OF
PIERCING
THE FINAL
BARRIERS
IN
MAGNETO'S
MIND!



PRO-
FESSOR!
WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO YOU?
LOOK AT
HIM! HE'S
BLEEDING...
BADLY!

HE'S
SURVIVED
WORSE.

IT'S IN OUR
POWER TO PUT
A PEACEFUL END
TO THIS RIGHT
NOW!

POWER IS
NOTHING, JEAN.
YOU HAVE IT. I
HAVE IT.

...THE MATTERS MOST
ARE THE CHOICES WE MAKE
ON HOW THAT POWER IS USED.
AND MAGNUS HAS MADE HIS
CHOICE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR.
ASK THE MEN ON THE LEV-
INGRAD, THE PEOPLE
WHO DIED TODAY.
ASK THEM ALL.

A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION WAS
LOST TO US LONG,
LONG AGO. WE
MUST ENTER HIS
MIND AGAIN--
QUICKLY,
BEFORE--

NO MORE,
LOGAN. FOOLISH,
FOOLISH MAN.

IT
ENDS FOR
US BOTH
NOW.

OUR LONG
ASSOCIATION,
MY MOST VISCERAL
ENEMY, MY MOST
RESPECTED FOE--



AND IT BEGINS
WITH A SMALL TUG--

--AN ALMOST
GENTLE
PULL--

--A
HARDER
YANK--

WHAT
TH--?

--THEN A
WRENCHING
TEAR--

--IS
OVER!

MAGNETIC FIRE
COURSES THROUGH
WOLVERINE'S
BODY.

FLY
HT!

LOGAN--?
OH, LORD--
LOGAN!

NO! MAGNUS--
FOR THE LOVE OF
GOD--DON'T DO
THIS--

"NOW, PLAY THE
INSOLENT! NOW,
PLUNDER THE GOD'S
PRIVILEGES AND
GIVE THEM TO
CREATURES OF
A DAY.

"WHAT DROP OF
YOUR SUFFERINGS
CAN MORTALS
SPARE YOU?"

WE ARE ALL
BUT BIT PLAYERS
IN A TRAGEDY
FAR LARGER THAN
ANY OF US...

...A
TRAGEDY
CALLED
LIFE,
LOGAN.

BUT
TODAY,
FOR YOU,
PERHAPS
FOR ME--

--THE
CURTAIN
FALLS...

...AND
THE PLAY IS
FINISHED!

SHREKKTTHH!

WOLVERINE DOESN'T
SCREAM. INDEED,
HE DOESN'T EVEN
HAVE TIME, AS THE
ADAMANTIUM WHICH
LONG AGO WAS
BONDED TO HIS
VERY BONES--

--IS DESTABILIZED
ON A MOLECULAR
LEVEL, RIPPED
FROM ITS MOORINGS,
AND FORCED THROUGH
HIS OPEN WOUNDS--

--ERUPTING
OUTWARD LIKE
WATER BURST-
ING THROUGH
A DAM!

AS HE FALLS, THE
STILLNESS OF PURE
HORROR SURROUNDS
THE KILLING
GROUND--

--BROKEN ONLY BY THE
VOICE OF ONE PERSON
WHO HAS, SINCE THE
DAY SHE FIRST MET HIM,
AND PERHAPS ALWAYS
WILL--

--LOVE
HIM...

LOGAN!!

OH, LORD--
IS HE--?!

STUBBORN
TO THE LAST,
EM--?

hack WHAT
OF YOU,
CHARLES--

--HE'S STILL
BREATHIN'--?!

MINE IS THE
DENQUEMENT,
OLD FRIEND.

--WHAT
OF YOUR
PART IN
THIS FOOL'S
FOULY?!

haff
haff

I HAVE
HIDDEN
BEHIND OUR
PHILOSOPHICAL
DIFFERENCES
FOR TOO LONG,
ALWAYS WILLING
TO FORGIVE
YOU FOR YOUR
TRANS-
GRESSIONS.

I CAN NO
LONGER DO THAT--
YOU HAVE SHOWN AN
INABILITY TO
CHANGE YOUR WAYS,
AND I, AN UNWILLING-
NESS TO MAKE
THE HARD
DECISIONS!

MAYBE, IN
OUR OWN WAYS,
WE ARE BOTH
FAILED
MAGNUS!

YOU, FOR
FAILING
TO RISE ABOVE
THE HORRORS
PERPETRATED
ON YOU IN YOUR
PAST--

--AND AS FOR
ME, MAYBE I
HAVE FAILED AS WELL...
DENYING THE NEED
TO STOP SUCH HORRORS
--NO MATTER WHAT
THE COST!

CHARLES,
LOGAN IS
STILL ALIVE
--JUST
BARELY--

--I'M TELE-
KINETICALLY
KEEPING
HIS BODY
TOGETHER--

--AND
TELEPATHICALLY
PREVENTING HIS
MIND FROM UNDER-
STANDING HOW
MUCH DAMAGE
WAS DONE TO
HIM--

--BUT WE
HAVE TO LEAVE
NOW!

HEAR THAT,
CHARLES?

A LIFE NEEDS
SAVING. SUCH
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
YOUR BALANCE,
YOUR CLARION
CALL.

BILLIONS
OF LIVES
NEED SAVING,
MAGNUS.

WE CAME
HERE TODAY
TO SACRIFICE
OUR OWN, SO
THAT THOSE
LIVES MAY
BE SAVED
FROM YOUR
MISGUIDED
WRATH!

BY WHAT RIGHT
DO YOU MAKE
SUCH DECISIONS,
CHARLES? BY
WHAT RIGHT DO
THE CHOICES YOU
MAKE FOR THE
LIVES OF HOMO
SAPIENS AND
SUPERIOR
ALIKE...

... MAKE
YOU ANY LESS
MISGUIDED
THAN I?

IT ALL BOILS
DOWN, FINALLY,
NO MATTER HOW
ALIKE WE ARE TO
THE FUNDAMENTAL
DIFFERENCE IN
OUR VIEWS,
MAGNUS!

MINE IS A
DREAM TO LIVE
IN HARMONY WITH
THOSE WHO FEAR
AND DESPISE US --
TO MAKE THEM
SEE THE ERROR
OF THEIR
WAYS --

--NO MATTER
THE HARDSHIPS
WE MUST ENDURE,
THE SACRIFICES
WE MUST MAKE,
TO ACHIEVE THAT
GOAL --

--AND
YOURS, QUITE
SIMPLY, DEMANDS
THAT WE RULE OVER
THOSE WHO WOULD
OPPOSE US... NO
MATTER THE COST
IN SUFFERING
AND DEGRADATION!

THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN US IS
THAT OF LIGHT AND
DARK, LOVE AND
HATE --

--LIFE AND
DEATH!!



NO MORE,
MAGNUS--

NO MORE!!

LOGAN SHALL
BE THE LAST! NO
ONE ELSE WILL
EVER SUFFER!

YOU CAUSED
THE DEATHS OF
HUNDREDS TODAY,
MAGNUS-- DEATHS
I COULD HAVE
PREVENTED HAD
I STOPPED YOU
YEARS AGO!

YOU HAVE
KILLED
TOO MANY,
MAGNUS--

--AND
I HAVE HAD
ENOUGH!!

I WILL MAKE
SURE-- HERE AND
NOW-- ONCE AND
FOR ALL-- THAT
YOU NEVER
KILL AGAIN!!

AHHHH...

CHAR--LES...

...I NEVER
THOUGHT...

...YOU
WOULD...

THWUMP!



NO!!

MAGNUS--?!!

PROFESSOR--
WHAT DID YOU
DO TO HIM?

I TOOK AWAY
HIS GREATEST
WEAPONS... HIS
HATRED...

...HIS
EGO, HIS
NIGHT-
MARE... I
TOOK THEM
ALL...

...I TOOK HIS
MIND AWAY FROM
HIM... GOD
FORGIVE ME...

JEAN!
HE'S BARELY
BREATHIN'!!





PETER--
YOU CAN'T
STAY HERE
--THIS
WHOLE
PLACE--ITS
REASON
FOR BEING
HERE--YOU
KNOW
THEY'RE
NOT
RIGHT!



IN LIGHT OF
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED HERE
TODAY-- CAN
ANY OF YOU BE
SO CERTAIN OF
THE CHOICES
YOU MAKE?

MAYBE
I DO,
JEAN--OR
MAYBE I
AM SIMPLY
NOT SURE
WHAT RIGHT
AND WRONG
MEAN ANY
MORE.



PERHAPS, PIOTR
NIKOLEVITCH, NONE
OF US EVER WERE
SO CERTAIN?

BUT DOES
THAT, IN ANY WAY,
MAKE THEM ANY
LESS DIFFICULT--
OR ANY LESS
IMPORTANT?

NO MATTER
THE CONSEQUENCES,
NO MATTER THE
PAIN--

--DOING
THE RIGHT THING
WILL ALWAYS
CARRY A HEAVY
BURDEN...

THEY LEAVE
THIS "HEAVEN"
A SHATTERED
PLACE...

--LEAVING BEHIND
ONE OF THEIR
OWN, AND PERHAPS
A PART OF THEIR
INNOCENCE.



AND PIOTR NIKOLEVITCH
RASPUTIN FINDS HE HAS
NO TEARS TO SHED FOR
THEM...

...FOR MAGNETO...

...ILLYANA...

...OR HIMSELF.

AND IN THE
SILENCE,
ONE CAN
ALMOST
HEAR THE
FADING OF
A DREAM.

THE STORY CONTINUES IN **WOLVERINE #75** -- AS THE X-MEN FACE A STUNNING LOSS! AND NEXT MONTH YOU **MUST** READ **AVENGERS #368** BEFORE JOINING US HERE, AS **BLOODTIES** -- THE X-MEN / AVENGERS CROSSOVER BEGINS!!

BOB HARRAS: editor — LISA PATRICK: assistant editor

X-PRÉSSIONS

**c/o MARVEL
COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York — 10016**

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome inker Matt Ryan to our midst! As you can see from the issue in your hands, the lad's got talent—he doesn't talk much of lunch, but boy can he ink!

Dear X-Perfs,

I think it's about time I finally coerced myself to write to you megamagical mutant makers on how I gladly want to express my opinion and to congratulate you on your great work of making the X-Men your best-selling mag. I also wrote concerning issue #22—you guys got me hooked again in purchasing this indispensable mag, cause I stopped collecting X-MEN since Jim Lee left and I found myself running through the comic stores looking for more back issues of X-MEN. I don't know how you guys do it, but it looks like you just made X-MEN so megapopular, everyone's buying it! The animated series also really intrigues me.

But enough praise. It looks like I'm only boring you guys, though issue #22 marks the return of some old foes of Wolverine and the X-Men in the forms of Mr. Sinister and Silver Sammy. Mr. Sinister seems want to eradicate Scott and his kin. Is next issue the conclusion of the Betsy Braddock storyline? Best of luck to Fabian and Andy, and before I go—why don't you do something about Rogue? I really feel sorry for her falling in love with that Cajun, which she can never truly experience anyway (ARRRRGH!!!). So until Storm becomes a weather reporter, make mine Marvel!

Roland Blandony
(Address withheld by request)

Thanks, Roland! And about Rogue—if you haven't already, be sure and pick up issue #24 (the cover alone should knock your socks off!).

Dear X-Pressions,

Did I read correctly? Is it true? Gambit in his own limited series? I just want to say THANK YOU!!! Ever since I've been reading X-MEN, which hasn't been too long, it was because of Gambit. As a character he really grew on me. I love the mystery of his past and this interest in Rogue. Since Gambit came around I was compelled to seek out the back issues that he's been in. Number 266 was a little difficult, but it's mine now.

I can't wait to see what will happen in this series. I think Gambit and Rogue should get together. They make a unique couple and besides, Scott and Jean have been around forever and Storm and Forge aren't together anymore. About time you get another romance going.

I also like this storyline with Psylocke and Revanche. Definitely an intense story and Andy's artwork—could it be any better? Doubtful.

One last thing. I've heard rumors that there was talk about having an X-Men movie. Is this true and if so, when might it be finished? I know that a movie about the X-Men would be a big hit. I hope the rumors are true, and we X-fans can expect to see the X-Men movie in the next couple of years.

Jason Rush
(Address withheld by request)

You heard right, Jason. Our favorite Cajun's limited series hits the stands in October—sending Remy back to New Orleans to deal with a deadly threat to the Thieves and the Assassins Guild! And as for the X-Men movie, the last we heard it was in development—well, that's Hollywood...

Dear Bob, Lisa, Fabian,

X-MEN #22 was a very enjoyable read. I thought you'd keep us in the dark forever, regarding who's the real Betsy Braddock. Nice to actually get some answers for once. My favorite of the two is the original, but why does she look Asian, too, when she's British? Maybe we'll get an answer to that someday, too, eh?

Regarding Cyclops, he has the greatest father complex I've ever seen. Abandoned by his own father, growing up alone in an orphanage and obviously dreaming of a father—finding a father figure in Xavier, becoming a father of his own...and, however unwillingly, seeing the cycle repeated with his own son (more or less).

Anyway, I'm looking forward to the next issue. Maybe we'll finally learn why Mr. Sinister is so obsessed by the Summers genes.

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Well, Michael, it's true—Scott has never been the most lighthearted, shall we say, of the X-Men! But fear not, because a major event in early '94 should lift his spirits! Also, be sure and check out upcoming issues of CABLE for the fabulous "Fathers and Sons" storyline. It might give you a few of the answers about Mr. Sinister you're looking for.

Dear Bob and Co.,

The Psylocke/Kwannon thing is interesting and I like both looks, especially Betsy's current jumpsuit (I hated her old armor), but you'd better not cop-out with this one. One of the two Psylocks should be a fake. If you opt for the predictable mindmerge between the characters I think I'll scream.

I'm glad to see Scott's family hasn't been forgotten. Any chance of Corsair showing up soon?

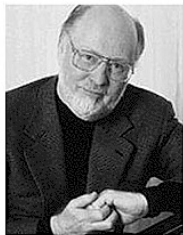
Best of all was the throwaway line about Shinobi's mother still being alive. This got me thinking the mother must be Asian, pushing 60, and probably a previously established Marvel character...I suspect Yukio (or possibly Viper?). She seems fairly capable and I can imagine her getting along with Sebastian Shaw. Shinobi is an interesting character. Much less so in my opinion Tatsu'o, Nyorin and that blasted Matsuo!

Also, can we finally have the full Cyclops/Sinister origin for good. One thing I like about him is that he created a fine band of villains, the Marauders, who I hope to see again (no way are they dead!).

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Thanks for writing, J.D., and we'll keep your theory about Shinobi's mother in mind. If you're interested in Corsair's whereabouts, he's been turning up in current issues of EXCALIBUR and as for the Marauders....you just never know when they might turn up.

I'm not him dammit!



John_Williams-DCP